WE CLAIM:

1. A process for treatment of a purified lipoprotein material to inactivate prions in a manner that does not substantially adversely affect the biological activity of the lipoprotein or cholesterol, that includes treating the material with a solution of base at a pH of between 10 and 13 for a sufficient time to cause prion inactivation.

2. The process of claim 1, carried out at approximately room temperature.

3. The process of claim 1, wherein the base is sodium hydroxide.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the base is potassium hydroxide.

5. The process of claim 1, wherein the base is hydroxide ion.

6. The process of claim 1, wherein the base is an ammonium ion or amine.

7. The process of claim 1, wherein the base is in concentration of between 0.1 and 1N solution.

8. The process of claim 1, wherein the time from initial contact is up to 10 hours.

9. The process of claim 1, wherein the lipoprotein is treated for at least 2 hours.

10. The process of claim 1, wherein the lipoprotein is treated for at least 4 hours.

11. The process of claim 1, wherein the lipoprotein is treated for at least 6 hours.

12. The process of claim 1, wherein the lipoprotein is treated for at least 8 hours.

13. The process claim 1, wherein the lipoprotein is treated for at least 10 hours.

14. The process of claim 1, wherein the lipoprotein is maintained at a pH of about 12 for about 8 hours.

15. The process of claim 1, wherein the lipoprotein is treated at a temperature between between about 16° C and about 24° C.

16. The process of claim 1, wherein concentration is between 10 and 3,500 mg/dL.

17. The process of claim 1, wherein the concentration is between 50 and 500 mg/dL.

18. The process of claim 1, further comprising after treatment with the base for a sufficient time to allow a desired degree of prion inactivation, adjusting the pH to

neutral or another desired pH, using a pH-adjusting agent that does not adversely affect the biologic material.

19. The process of claim 1, wherein the purified lipoprotein (other than contaminating prion) consists essentially of lipoprotein material and solvent.

20. The process of claim 1, wherein the lipoprotein material is substantially pure.

21. The process of claim 1, wherein the lipoprotein is in a solvent selected from water, saline, or buffer.

22. The process of claim 1, wherein the purified lipoprotein material contains cholesterol.

23. The process of claim 1, wherein the lipoprotein includes material selected from the group consisting of a triglyceride, a fatty acid and a phospholipid.

24. A process for removing prions from a lipoprotein material solution by contacting the solution with an adsorbant that binds more tightly to the lipoprotein than to the prion.

25. The process of claim 24, wherein the adsorbant is silica.

26. The process of claim 24, wherein the lipoprotein material is mixed with silica at a pH that does not cause the removal of the lipoprotein from the silica.

27. The process of claim 26, wherein the pH is between 6 and 8.

28. The process of claim 26, further comprising separating the silica/lipoprotein material particulate from the prion-containing liquid by filtration.

29. The process of claim 28, further comprising removing the lipoprotein material from the silica.

30. The process of claim 29, wherein the lipoprotein material is removed via an elevated pH.

31. The process of claim 29, wherein the removal is carried out by passing a high pH buffered solution through the lipoprotein-adsorbent complex until the lipoprotein material is substantially removed from the adsorbent.

32. The process of claim 24, wherein the lipoprotein material contains cholesterol.

33. The process of claim 24, wherein the lipoprotein material includes material selected from the group consisting of a triglyceride, a fatty acid and a phospholipid.